



FINAL REPORT

Montana Rural Heritage Experience

NPS Grant Number 30-06-PA-2032

Approved Amendments/Extensions:

NPS approved budget modification April 2007.

Grant-Assisted Work:

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was awarded \$150,000 in 2006 Preserve America grant funds to support Preserve America communities with sub-grants, produce several Montana Historical Society state heritage publications, and to support grant administration and travel expenses. Specifically, of the \$150,000 funds received, the following allocations were budgeted (see also below, Planned and Actual Costs):

- \$90,000 was allocated for sub-grants to Preserve America communities (60%).
- \$37,529 was allocated for Montana Historical Society publications (25.1%).
- \$14,384 was allocated for grant administration (9.6%).
- \$3,087 was allocated for SHPO staff travel (2.1%).
- \$5,000 was allocated for Montana Historical Society (MHS) indirect charges (3.3%).

The bulk of the money awarded for the grant was passed Through as sub-grants on a competitive basis, to Preserve America communities in Montana to assist with improving heritage tourism in their areas. Many of Montana's communities are rural and small in nature; therefore, they are unable to compete independently for nation-wide funding through the NPS program. The Montana SHPO sub-grant program allows for more participation by Montana Preserve America communities in Preserve America funding.

Preserve America Community sub-grants:

Montana has fifteen Preserve America Communities – Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Billings, Butte-Silver County, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Havre-Hill County, Jefferson County, Lewistown, Livingston, Missoula, Red Lodge, Stevensville, Terry, and Virginia City.

SHPO awarded \$90,000 in sub-grants to the following communities:

1. The City of Red Lodge was awarded \$14,990 to re-survey eighteen sites in the historic downtown area, nominate two buildings to National Register of Historic Places and develop a City/County Walking Tour Map. Eighteen (18) sites were re-surveyed and included in the City/County Walking Tour Map. A copy of the map is included with this report. The Kero Homestead and the Red Lodge Brewery were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. For more information about Red Lodge visit web site www.CarbonCountyHistory.com.

Prospectors from all over the state hurried to mine the Red Lodge Coalfield in the 1860s as gold prospectors discovered rich coal deposits in the Rock Creek Valley. The area was officially opened to settlement in the 1880s-1890s and coal was soon being mined and burned for locomotives, smelters, and mills. The boom brought infrastructure as well as jobs to the small town. By 1910, Red Lodge boasted a population of nearly 5,000, half of them immigrants from Scandinavia as well as Eastern and Western Europe. Red Lodge is a town with a great pride in its individual cultures, highlighted by the fact that many immigrants settled into their own, separate neighborhoods.

2. The City of Missoula was awarded \$15,400 to develop a web site for “Historic Missoula”, develop walking tours and interpretive materials for Missoula’s Historic Districts, and conduct a photographic project of “Missoula Then and Now.” Missoula has eight (8) historic districts. Pictures (matted and framed) from the “Missoula Then and Now” are currently mounted in the Missoula airport. Please see the map included with this report outlining the historic districts. The Missoula Heritage tourism web site is at www.historicmissoula.org.

Missoula has been a major commercial center in western Montana since it was founded in 1860 at a historically strategic point near the head of five valley systems: The Hellgate and Blackfoot Valleys to the East, the Missoula Valley to the West, the Flathead-Jocko Valley to the North, and the Bitterroot Valley to the South.

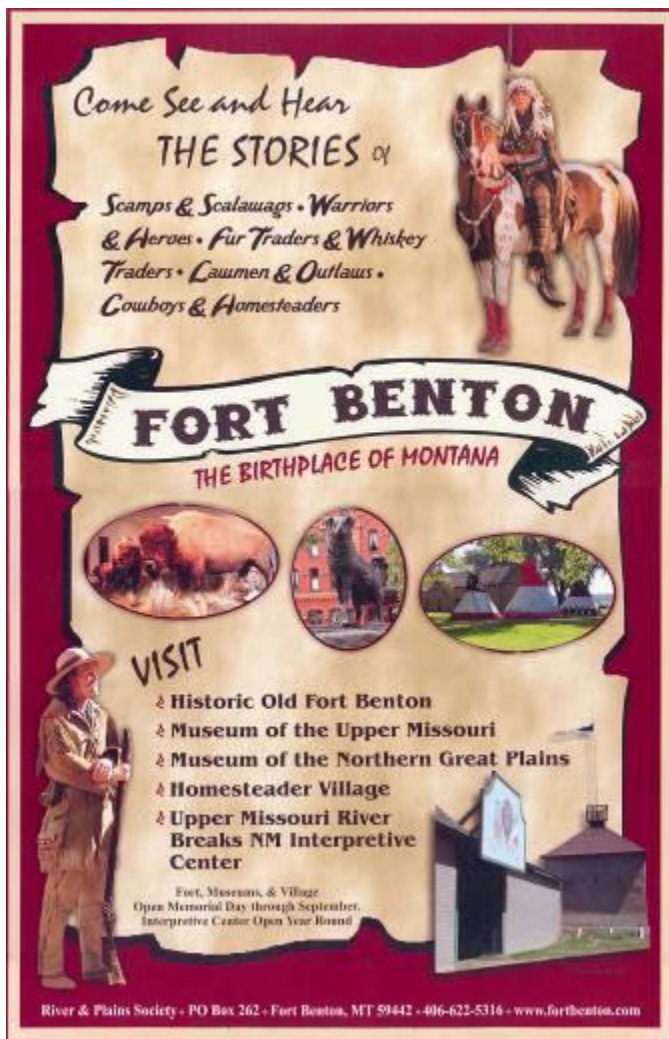


The construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad through Missoula in 1883, converted it from a town of 300 to a city of 12,000 in 1920, with an economy based on trade, timber, and agriculture. Missoula also

became the center of local, state, and federal government - the county seat in 1860, the location of the state university in 1895, and the USDA Forest Service District Headquarters in 1908. New Deal projects, such as the construction of university

buildings and several city improvements, contributed significantly to the stabilization of the city's economy during the 1930's.

3. The City of Fort Benton was awarded \$11,100 to create a new guidebook of five loop tours with over 100 farms, ranches, galleries, bed and breakfasts, local restaurants, and artist studios to visit. In addition, creative signage for direction and interpretation of the loops and their respective sites was developed. Visit web site www.handsofharvest.org for the Craft Heritage Trails of North Central Montana. More information on these trails is included in the appendix. The information is from an article in America Road magazine.



As the oldest continuous town in Montana (est. 1846), Fort Benton is known as the Birthplace of Montana. It has been designated as a National Historic Landmark District for its role in the development of the West in the US and Canada. As the uppermost navigable point on the Missouri River, Fort Benton was Montana's most important city for travel and trade prior to the arrival of the railroad. It was the transportation center of the fur and buffalo robe trade and the major Montana destination for immigrants and goods from the east via steamboats.

4. The City of Fort Benton was also awarded \$3,100 to develop a brochure and poster for marketing Fort Benton's historic attractions. Three copies of the poster and brochure are included with this report.

5. Butte-Silver Bow County was awarded \$15,000 to develop "The Copperway Guide to Butte-

Anaconda History and Culture." This project guides tourists to the art and cultural sites in and between these two copper cities. The "Copperway" – the name given the nation's largest National Historic Landmark district that links their communities – is a visitor "portal" or entrance/exit point to the forthcoming SW Montana *Rural Treasures Guide*. These two heritage tourism projects dovetail perfectly and are timed to capture the interest of tourists expected to attend the

Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference in 2009 and the National Folk Festival to be held in Butte from 2008 to 2010. "Of Sage and Stone" a preliminary brochure to Southwest Montana's Rural Treasures and provides information on five (5) heritage trails of which the "Copperway" is one. A copy of this brochure is included with the report.

The historic resources of Butte-Anaconda reflect a colorful past that ranges from copper barons and labor unions, to mining camps and vigilantes, to ranching and cattle ranching, to the ethnic tapestry of young communities on the western frontier. These are the themes to be drawn together in the heritage tourism guides to these great mining cities. The Butte-Anaconda Historic District is the country's largest NHL in numbers of historic resources; the resources reflect the copper mining and smelting industry like none other on the continent. From the 1870s through the mid 1930s, the labor and copper history of Butte and Anaconda shaped the future of Montana and our nation. Three copies of the brochure are included with this report.

6. The City of Lewistown was awarded \$5,725 to develop a walking tour guide of Historic Lewistown. The 36 page tour guide provides a brief history of Lewistown, discusses the town's five (5) Historic Districts, the Stone Building District and railroads of the city. The guide contains over 50 black and white photos of historic buildings with descriptions. Three copies of the guide are included with this report.

Lewistown existed originally as a trading post for a nomadic way of life, serving Indian traders, hunters, and trappers. In 1874, Company F of the 7th Infantry selected a site near Story's Fort for Camp Lewis. The temporary military post was established to protect commerce on the Carroll Trail and was named in honor of Major W.H. Lewis. It is likely the name "Lewistown," selected ten years later, was derived from the post. In the 1880s cattlemen and the sheep industry began to settle in the area and take advantage of the open range. Gold was also discovered about this time in the Judith and Moccasin Mountains spurring the growth Lewistown.

7. The Town of Terry was awarded \$10,000 to preserve and promote the history of the area by 1) researching and documenting an historical trail in Terry, 2) assisting in the designation of heritage trails for hikers, bicyclists, and photographers, 3) producing a heritage brochure and trail maps to be distributed throughout the Custer County tourism area, and by 4) placing Prairie County historic information and trails on the internet linking to Travel Montana, Custer Country and other related websites.

A 52 page brochure was developed entitled "Welcome to Prairie County." It provides the history of the county and contains color and black & white photos. Two self-guided brochures were developed, one for the BNSF Railroad Tunnel Trail and another for the Calypso Trail. Copies of all three items are enclosed.

A community profile was added to the following website – www.evelyncameron.com. Trail information from both brochures has been added to the following web site – www.dev.terrymt.com. Trail markers have been identified and will be installed prior to the 2008 hiking season. Lastly, a five (5) year plan to develop the historic and cultural resources of Terry was developed.

Terry sprang up in the Great Plains of Montana in the 1870s. The town site became the rear supply depot for the Terry and Custer arm of the Little Big Horn Expedition in 1876. As a river crossing point, the town grew rapidly and by 1880 and was renamed after General Alfred Terry. By 1882, Terry had a schoolroom, post office, general store, and a saloon. As the buffalo vanished, the wide open prairie seemed a perfect place for cattle ranching. The arrival of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad encouraged homesteaders to settle, ensuring Terry's survival.

8. The City of Virginia City was awarded \$14,645 to promote the Vigilante Trail from Virginia City to Bannock, to promote tourism planning and to develop interpretive exhibits. The City in partnership with the Virginia City Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Heritage Commission, designed, printed and distributed 100,000 placemats promoting the Vigilante Trail as a tourism corridor leading from Yellowstone National Park to Butte. The intent is to offer an alternative historic route for Yellowstone Park visitors via the Vigilante Trail.



Present Downtown Virginia City

A major interpretative exhibit was installed in the Hangman's Building, one of Virginia City's most historically significant buildings. Two freestanding (slideshow-type) exhibits, under the supervision of Montana Heritage Commission staff, were completed. The two exhibits chronicle the history of the Kiskkadden Barn and the history of preservation activities in the area for the past 50 years.

Virginia City, a National Historic Landmark, has a prominent part in the history of Montana. Rich placer diggings were discovered in Alder Gulch in the spring of 1863 and the stampede of gold seekers played an important role in the settlement of the state. The City was Capitol of the Montana Territory from 1863-1873 and still retains a wealth of buildings representative of the Old West and the Victorian Era. Virginia City's history includes miners, saloon girls, government officials, road agents, and vigilantes. It has been called the best preserved Gold Rush-era town in the West.

Heritage Tourism Publications:

The Montana Historical Society was allocated \$37,529 in funding, used to develop two statewide heritage tourism publications, *Montana Place Names* and *Last Best Barns of the Big Sky*. The 352 page *Place Names* manuscript is complete, but has been delayed in going to the printer until July 2008. It will be available in time for the Montana History Conference in October 2008. The *Last Best Barns of the Big Sky* is on track with photography, funded by the Preserve America grant, expected to be finished in November 2008 and a final manuscript completed by January 2009. Printing is expected in Fall 2009. This book will provide over 100 photographs of Montana barns and will provide context for National Register of Historic Places nominations of many rural barns.

Differences between planned and actual results of the grant:

The pass through of funds as sub-grants to Montana Preserve America communities went pretty much as planned. Two separate requests were made for applications. Two sub-grant projects came in under budget. Missoula was awarded \$15,440 and came in at \$14,322. Terry was awarded \$10,000 and was able to complete their project for \$7,675. These unused funds (total = \$3,443) were re-allocated to other grant activities (see next).

SHPO was allocated \$14,384 of grant funds for grant administration and \$18,973 was spent. \$3,087 was allocated for SHPO staff travel of which \$1,941.20 was expended with \$1,146 remaining. This remaining amount, along with the unexpended sub-grant funds was applied to the over expenditure for SHPO grant administration. As part of the sub-grant process, SHPO educated communities on how to apply for and report on sub-grant funds, including use of developed sub-grant reporting forms.

A third originally proposed MHS publication, *History Half-Notes*, was not pursued because there was insufficient funding available to do three publications as originally envisioned. \$10,000 was originally budgeted for *Montana Place Names* but \$18,704 of Preserve America funds were actually needed for this publication. The *Last Best Barns of*

the Big Sky spent \$18,825 of Preserve America funds for manuscript development, including extensive photography.

Work-Cost Budget (Grant & Matching Funds):

The following table includes both federal grant and matching fund expenditures together.

Budget Category	Approved Cost	Actual Expenditure
Personnel	\$ 36,384	\$ 41,935
Supplies and Materials	\$ 13,200	\$ 0
Consultant Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect Costs	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Sub-grants	\$237,329	\$245,045*
Travel and Per Diem	\$ 3,087	\$ 8,116
Total	\$300,000	\$300,096

* Includes sub-grantees and funding spent on publications.

Matching verse grant fund expenditures are indicated separately below:

Budget Category	NPS Grant Award	Actual Grant Cost	Match
Indirect Costs	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
SHPO Personnel	\$ 14,384	\$ 18,973	\$ 22,962
MHS Publications	\$ 37,529	\$ 37,529	\$ 17,026
SHPO Travel	\$ 3,087	\$ 1,941	\$ 6,175
PA Sub-grants	\$ 90,000	\$ 86,557	\$103,933
Total	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,096

Description of Non-Federal Match:

The match listed in the above table is from both state government and local community sources. Personnel match comes from SHPO Preservation Grants Administrators time paid for with the State general fund. Match for publications are from Montana Historical Society (MHS) publications staff time and also is from the State general fund. The match for travel is from MHS staff travel time and MHS operating expenses related to this grant. MHS travel and time is paid for from the State general fund. The match provided in relation to the sub-grants comes from the local PA community sub-grantees time and expenses related to their grant projects.

Copies of publications:

Enclosed are the following publications and documents related to this grant.

1. Red Lodge walking tour map
2. Map of Missoula's eight (8) historic districts

3. Three (3) Fort Benton posters and three (3) brochures
4. Article from *American Road* magazine on Old Forts Trail describing the area of the Hands of Harvest project.
5. Three (3) copies of the Copperway brochure, a historic and cultural guide to Butte and Anaconda
6. “Of Sage and Stone” brochure
7. Three (3) copies of a “Tour of Historic Lewistown” booklet
8. Three (3) copies each of “Welcome to Prairie County” booklet and Calypso Trail and BNSF Railroad Tunnel self-guided tour brochures
9. Three (3) copies of the “Virginia City Herald” 2007 Visitors Guide
10. Three (3) copies of the “Hands of Harvest” Trail Guide (printer ready). They haven’t been printed up yet.
11. SHPO Preserve America guidance document, application form and reporting forms
12. Current copies of the status of the *Montana Place Names and the Last Best Barns of the Big Sky* publications. Three (3) copies of each book will be submitted to NPS once printed.